

State Environmental Quality Review  
**NEGATIVE DECLARATION**  
Notice of Determination of Non-Significance

Project: Ocean Beach New 4kV Feeder Project

Date: December 18, 2021

This notice is issued in accordance with Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law and its implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617 and 21 NYCRR LXXXI 10052.

The Long Island Power Authority (“Authority”) has determined, based on information provided by PSEG Long Island and the Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 & 3 prepared by PSEG Long Island that the Proposed Action described below will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

**Name of Action:** Ocean Beach New 4kV Feeder Project

**Location:** Village of Ocean Beach, Fire Island, and communities of Seaview and Ocean Bay Park, Town of Islip and Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York

**SEQR Status:** Unlisted

**Conditioned Negative Declaration:** No

**Proposed Action Description:**

The Proposed Action includes the installation of a new 4kV feeder in the Village of Ocean Beach, Fire Island and communities of Seaview and Ocean Bay Park, Town of Islip and Town of Brookhaven, Suffolk County, New York. The feeder will begin at the Ocean Beach substation on Surf View Walk in the Village of Ocean Beach and will end at a new exit riser pole on Thompson Avenue in the community of Ocean Bay Park. The new 4kV feeder and substation upgrade are need to meet the increase load demand in Ocean Village and the surrounding areas.

The Proposed Action includes the installation of approximately 5,500 feet of 4kV underground distribution cable and approximately 145 feet of aerial cable. The vast majority of the underground cable will be installed in conduit via horizontal directional drilling (HDD). A new above ground cubicle will be installed inside the Ocean Beach substation on a new 6-foot by 10-foot concrete pad. The feeder will exit from the substation via open trench and travel up a new 40-foot riser pole. The feeder will continue via aerial cable from the rear property of the Ocean Beach substation and head north towards Bay Walk where the aerial cable will dip underground at a new 40-foot riser pole. Then, along with three (3) spare conduits, the underground route will run north on Surfview Walk towards Bayview Walk for approximately 50 feet. This segment will be done via either hand trenching or HDD and will be determined by the construction contractor upon award of the Proposed Action. Neither of the construction methodologies has the potential to impact the surrounding area since the majority of the work will be within an existing paved pathway and there are no environmentally sensitive areas near this portion of the Proposed Action. The underground route will then continue underground east along Bayview Walk until Dune Way.

The underground route continues south along Dune way until Central Walk. The underground route will continue east on Central Walk until Fairway Avenue, then continues south on Fairway Avenue, then east

on Bayview Avenue until Champlain Street. The three spare conduits will continue east for approximately 15 feet and will be capped on the east side of Champlain Street with the feeder continuing south along Champlain Street until Thompson Avenue and head east on Thompson Avenue where it will end at a new 40-foot riser pole. A total of two (2) bell holes and a total of six (6) splice pits are anticipated to be required for the HDD portion of the project. Easements from the Village of Ocean Beach and the community of Seaview are required for the proposed underground installations and riser poles within the Village and community. Work within Ocean Bay Park will occur within an existing franchise area, so no easements for this portion of the Proposed Action will be required.

A total of three new poles (the riser poles described above) will be installed. All new poles will be within 10 feet of the height of the utility poles existing nearby and will be wood, similar to existing poles in the vicinity. In total, including the pole installation, open trench, and drill pits, approximately 0.05 acres of ground disturbance by the Proposed Action.

The Proposed Action will require two staging areas. One staging area will be approximately 0.14 acres and located at the corner of Bayview Walk and Surfview Walk in Ocean Beach. The other staging area will be approximately 1.5 acres and located on the corner of Central Walk and Fairway Avenue in Seaview. Both sites do not require any preparation. The first site is currently paved, and the second site is a dock the use of which has been approved by Seaview for PSEG Long Island and its contractors as a material drop-off area.

#### **Reasons Supporting This Determination:**

Based on a review of the Proposed Action's scope of work, in accordance with the requirements of SEQRA, the Short Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 & 3 ("SEAF") were prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the Proposed Action.

Since the Proposed Action primarily involves the installation of underground distribution cable, there will be no changes to land use or community character, nor will there be any effects on human health. Further, there will be no significant adverse visual impact, as the Proposed Action primarily consists of the installation of underground cable and the installation of new poles in line with existing poles that are within 10 feet of the height of the poles in the immediate vicinity.

Portions of the Proposed Action are located adjacent to pedestrian and cyclist accommodating walkways. The vast majority of work will be conducted via HDD to minimize impacts on pedestrians and cyclists. Further, work will be conducted in the off-season (September to March) when pedestrian and cyclist traffic is at a minimum. As a result, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse impacts to pedestrian accommodations or bicycle routes.

The Proposed Action is located outside of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) tidal wetland jurisdictional boundary associated with Great South Bay because the construction activities are located behind bulkheads, which have existed prior to 1977. Given the location of construction activities, the intervening bulkhead, and minimal disturbance associated with construction, no impacts to wetlands will occur as a result of the Proposed Action.

The EAF Mapper Summary Report identified that there are Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) located at or around the Proposed Action site. Piping Plover is listed as endangered in New York State and as threatened on the Federal level. Piping Plover utilize sandy shorelines to roost, forage, and raise young. The Proposed Action does not include work within or directly adjacent to a sandy shoreline; all work will be conducted within paved walkways and outside of the

breeding season. Least Tern is listed as Threatened in New York State and as Endangered on the Federal Level. However, Least Tern is listed federally for the interior of the United States only, not the coast where the Proposed Action is taking place near. Least Tern utilize large, open expanses of sandy or gravelly beach to breed. Least Tern and Piping Plover are commonly found nesting in the same area. Again, the Proposed Action does not include work within or directly adjacent to sandy shoreline; all work will be conducted within paved walkways and outside of the breeding season. As such, the Proposed Action will not result in significant adverse impacts to threatened or endangered species including Piping Plover and Least Tern at either the individual or the population level.

The EAF Mapper Summary Report identified that the Proposed Action is located within the 100-year flood plain. Based on review of the FEMA Flood Zones layer on the Suffolk County, New York GIS Viewer and the FEMA Flood Map Service Center, the entirety of the Proposed Action is located within Flood Zone AE (area subject to inundation by the 1-percent-annual chance-flood event). The Proposed Action includes the installation of aerial cable within existing pole lines and an underground distribution cable within pre-existing paved walkways that will be restored to pre-construction conditions once work is complete. No change to existing elevations or flood patterns will occur as a result of the Proposed Action. Therefore, the Proposed Action will have neither a positive nor a negative effect on the 100-year flood plain.

Based on the SEAF and PSEG Long Island's recommendation according to the standards as set forth in SEQRA, the Proposed Action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

**For Further Information:**

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/s/ Billy Raley  
Billy Raley  
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Dated: December 18, 2021